

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on June 15, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully considered. Additionally attached to this Amendment is a Petition for a Three-month Extension of Time, extending the period for response to December 15, 2005. Should the remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and notify the undersigned counsel accordingly.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 26 into independent form by including therein the subject matter of base claim 1, and have canceled base claim 1. Moreover, various ones of the dependent claims have been amended to change their dependency because of the cancellation of base claim 1. Claims 5 and 26 are the independent claims, and claims 2-6, 9, 10, 16-20 and 26-34 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has objected to claim 31 for an informality. In response, claim 31 has been amended to depend from claim 30, so as to provide antecedent basis for the objected to term. It is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

It is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 5, 6 and 26-28 as being allowable over the art of record. In response, and as noted above, claims 5 and 26 have been amended into independent form. Moreover, since independent claim 1 has been canceled, and

since the remaining claims pending in the application depend from either allowable claim 5 or allowable claim 26, all of the Examiner's prior art rejections have been rendered moot. Thus, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

December 7, 2005
Date



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